



City of New Bedford  
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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **H.O.P.E. Collaborative Works With Leadership SouthCoast 4Peace**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts-** The H.O.P.E. Collaborative invites the public to attend its Highlight Celebration and Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 4:00PM at the Woodland Commons Hall at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. This event will showcase the work the 19 coalition partners and the Leadership SouthCoast graduation class has achieved.

The Highlight Celebration and Commencement Ceremony will mark a year-long journey for the H.O.P.E. Collaborative and will celebrate the graduates of Leadership SouthCoast. The H.O.P.E. Collaborative and Leadership SouthCoast have forged a strategic alliance to foster positive change in the city of New Bedford. Both organizations believe that building and strengthening relationships are fundamental components of success.

The program will begin with a presentation from the 4PEACE Foundation entitled "Thinking Before You Act." 4Peace is a new and dynamic hip-hop group that addresses the growing concern of violence and talks about ways to reduce it. 4Peace connects with inner-city youth in a positive and meaningful way. The members of 4Peace have all experienced success in the arts and music industry while performing in critically acclaimed productions, winning numerous awards, and creating legendary hip-hop and R&B hits.

In the second half of the program, Salome Thomas-El, internationally known educator and author will deliver the keynote address. He is expected to speak on the importance of mentoring, parenting, and service to others as well as non-violent conflict resolution.

For more information on this event please contact Deirdre Lopes at (508) 979-1557.

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